



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## August 2009

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students  
who participate in the  
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute  
and NRES Graduate Programs

### UPCOMING THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Shannon Crowley is a candidate for the degree:  
**Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)**

Mr. Crowley will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Patterns of River Otter (*Lontra Canadensis*) Diet and Habitat Selection at Latrine Sites in Central British Columbia”

Supervisor: **Dr. Chris Johnson**

Date: August 11, 2009

Time: 1:00 pm

Room: Senate Chambers Room 1079  
UNBC Prince George campus

### PUBLICATIONS

Froese, D.G., Zazula, G.D., Westgate, J.A., Preece, S.J., **Sanborn, P.T.**, Reyes, A.V., Pearce, N.J.G. (2009) “The Klondike goldfields and Pleistocene environments of Beringia.” *GSA Today* 18: 4-10

### VISITORS

Ph.D. student Arne Iserbyt and Master’s student Nouchka De Craene, University of Antwerp, Belgium, visited the Forest Insect Research Group at UNBC on 21 July. Arne gave an interesting presentation to the group (and guests **Russ Dawson** and **Ken Otter**) on the role of sexual polymorphism on mate selection behaviour in our smallest damselfly, *Nehalennia irene*, the sedge sprite. Arne and Nouchka have spent July doing field work around Prince George on this species, one of many damselfly species where varying proportions of females in the population mimic male morphology (andromorphs). In the Prince George population, the proportion of such females is stable around 98%! The Canada-wide project, which also includes research sites in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, is a collaboration among researchers at the University of Antwerp, Carleton University, and the University of Ottawa. UNBC has helped out by providing ethanol for preserving insect.

### TRAVEL / RESEARCH / CONFERENCES

**Keith Egger, Brian Pickles, Scott Green, Hugues Massicotte** and Linda Tackaberry (Research Associate) attended the Mycological Society of America Annual Meeting in Snowbird, Utah from July 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, where Keith and a former graduate student, Kei Fujimura, gave an invited presentation on “Factors Affecting Community Structure and Effects of Experimental Warming on Root-associated Fungal Communities in Arctic Tundra” in a Symposium on “Multiplicity of Fungal Form and Function in Arctic-Alpine Ecosystems”; Brian Pickles, Scott Green, Keith Egger and Hugues Massicotte gave a talk on “Climate Change and Symbioses: Growth and Ectomycorrhizal Development of Douglas-fir and Lodgepole Pine Seedlings on a North-South Transect”; and Hugues Massicotte, Linda Tackaberry and Scott Green gave a presentation on “Relocation Success of Whitebark Pine under Genetic, Soil Microbial and Elevation Shifts: Soil Impacts on Seedling Growth Traits and Mycorrhizal Communities”.

## TRAVEL / RESEARCH / CONFERENCES (cont'd)

**Art Fredeen** will be traveling to the Yukon Territory from August 18th-28th with **Scott Green**, incoming NRES graduate student Alyson Watt, and former NRES graduate student, Hardy Greisbauer (MoF), to study the impacts of climate change on forest growth in the Teslin and Dawson City regions in a 2y INAC-funded study.

**Ian D. Hartley** traveled to Boise Idaho on June 20 to 23 to present a paper on "Studies of Birefringence of Wood at Terahertz Frequencies for OSB", authored along with Tara Todoruk (MSc Student) and Matt Reid (Physics) at the 63rd International Convention of the Forest Products Society. Ian also co-authored a technical poster presentation at the Convention with Brian K. Via (Auburn University, Alabama) on "A Capillary Sorption Isotherm Model for LVL, PSL, and OSB Wood Composites".

In early June, **Ian Hartley** traveled to Quebec City to attend the AGM of ForValueNet (NSERC Strategic network on forest management for value-added products).

**Staffan Lindgren** met with Dr. Chris MacQuarrie, Northern Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service, and Dr. Amanda Roe, University of Alberta on 29 July. Dr. MacQuarrie will dissect birch leaves collected by Dr. Lindgren in order to evaluate if a natural enemy of the birch leaf miner, a parasitic wasp, released in 2007 has established. He then visited the labs of Drs. Maya Evenden, Nadir Erbilgin, and Felix Sperling at the University of Alberta on 30 July, including a stimulating meeting with the graduate students of Drs. Erbilgin and Evenden. Staffan also got the opportunity to discuss some of the ongoing genome work on the mountain pine beetle and its associated fungi, and the host tree, lodgepole pine as all these scientists are involved in that project.

**Phil Owens** and **Ellen Petticrew** attended a FORREX workshop on Wildfire and Watershed Hydrology in Kelowna in June, and gave a presentation entitled "Fine sediment response to the 2003 McLure wildfire, British Columbia".

## GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER FIELDWORK UPDATE

### Cristian Silva, MA student

While in Chile to visit family in July, forensic anthropologist Dr. Eugenio Aspillaga invited UNBC graduate student Cristian Silva (supervisor: **C. Nolin**) to speak at the University of Chile about UNBC and his graduate research on femicide in Guatemala. Cristian also visited the University of Alberto Hurtado to meet with Dra. Elizabeth Lira who researches the psychological effects of political violence. Additionally, Cristian was invited by Dra. Alejandra Jiménez for a week-long visit with the Medical Examiner's Office in Santiago which is run by the Chilean Ministry of Justice.



*Photo:*  
Cristian Silva (right) in Santiago, Chile with Dr. Cristian Orrego (California Department of Justice & the Medical Examiner's Office in Santiago, Chile) and Dra. Alejandra Jiménez (Program Coordinator for Human Rights, Medical Examiner's Office of the Chilean Ministry of Justice)

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**REMINDER:** Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honours you may have received with others interested in NRES issues.

**PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO MICHELLE KEEN: [keenm@unbc.ca](mailto:keenm@unbc.ca)**

## GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER FIELDWORK UPDATE (cont'd)

### Lorraine Naziel, MA student

During preliminary fieldwork in July, MA graduate student & Wet'suwet'en hereditary chief Lorraine Naziel (Wilawhl) (supervisor: **C. Nolin**) had the opportunity to paddle a traditional war canoe with four other chiefs on Morice Lake (Wedzin Bin), northern BC. Chief Gisdaywa (recent recipient of a UNBC Honorary Doctorate), Chief Kloum Khun, and other chiefs from all clans were on a field trip to discuss the Wet'suwet'en vision for co-management plans for the creation of six parks on territory.



Photo credit: Mel Bazil  
Lorraine Naziel (second from right)

### Joe LeBourdais, MA NRES graduate student

This summer, **Drs. Neil Hanlon** and **Greg Halseth** are completing the final segment of a 5-year research initiative of the New Emerging Team for Health in Rural and Northern BC (NETHRN-BC), funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The purpose of the "Social Determinants of Rural Health" research is to understand the role of informal and formal care networks for individuals and households under stress. Research assistant and NRES grad student Joe LeBourdais (supervisor: **N. Hanlon**) traveled extensively this summer to Fort St. John, Mackenzie, Terrace, and Williams Lake to meet with focus group participants for a final-wrap up of the project.

### Courtney LeBourdais, MA NRES graduate student

**Drs. Catherine Nolin** and **Greg Halseth** (The Northern BC Immigration Network) are spending part of the summer carrying out follow up fieldwork for the "Women, Migration, Marriage" project in Prince George, Dawson Creek, and Fort St. John. NRES graduate student & research assistant Courtney LeBourdais (supervisor: **C. Nolin**) is currently working on the "Photovoice" component by distributing cameras to several 'foreign brides' within the study communities to visually document their experiences of marriage and migration, as well as their perceptions of living in a northern, rural, non-metropolitan environments. In August, Courtney will return to Fort St. John for her own thesis research which also looks at the settlement and integration of 'foreign brides' in northern BC.



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## GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER FIELDWORK UPDATE (cont'd)

### Claudette Bois, PhD NRES graduate student

“As part of her preliminary research, Claudette Bois (PhD NRES student, supervisor: **C. Nolin**) participated in the Wet'suwet'en First Nation rally against the proposed Enbridge pipeline on May 5<sup>th</sup> in Terrace, BC, and at the Wet'suwet'en First Nation-hosted “All Nations Energy Summit” held in Morristown, BC, on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Both occasions were attended by community representatives stretching from Fort Chipewyan, Alberta through Haida Gwaii, BC, all with the same message – “No to the Pipeline!””



Photo credit: Claudette Bois

### Nate Einbinder, MA NRES student

MA NRES student Nate Einbinder (supervisor: **C. Nolin**) spent the months of January through April doing fieldwork in rural Guatemala in the small communities of Río Negro & Pacux, both near Rabinal, Baja Verapaz. Nate conducted interviews with survivors of the three Río Negro massacres of 1982 to discuss the violence associated with the ‘development’ of the Chixoy dam – which required their displacement & the flooding of their homes – and contemporary, grassroots plans for appropriate development. Nate was invited to participate with the surviving families in the yearly commemoration of the March 12, 1982 massacre, as seen in the attached photo.



Photo credit: Nate Einbinder

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